

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2002
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on May 15, 2002 at 10:09 a.m. at Oakland City Hall, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, California.

Members Present: Rod Diridon, Chairperson
 Dr. Ernest A. Bates
 Jerry Epstein
 Fran Florez
 Ben L. Hom
 William E. Leonard
 T.J. Stapleton

Members Absent: Leland Wong, Vice Chairperson
 Joseph E. Petrillo

Approval of Minutes for April 17, 2002 Meeting

Chairperson Diridon presented the minutes for approval. Member Leonard moved to approve the April 17, 2002 meeting minutes. Member Epstein seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairperson Diridon presented the list of meetings for compensation, with the addition of Member Epstein's meeting on April 24th for approval. The list of meetings for compensation was approved with no dissent.

Members Reports

Member Epstein reported he met with Tom Ridge, Director of U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Director Ridge expressed interest and enthusiasm in the high-speed rail project. Member Epstein reported he rode Amtrak from New York to Washington, D.C. and stated it was a pleasant experience and hopes it will be comparable to high-speed rail from San Francisco to Los Angeles Union Station.

Chairperson Diridon reported on his numerous speeches to various communities through out the state. Chairperson Diridon reported he provided testimony at the Senate High-Speed Rail Subcommittee and SB1856 passed with a 10-1 vote.

Chairperson Diridon introduced the Honorable Jerry Brown, Mayor of Oakland. Mayor Brown welcomed the Authority to Oakland and expressed his enthusiasm and support for the proposed high-speed train system and station locations in downtown Oakland and near the Oakland Coliseum.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed reported on the status of the Authority's FY 2002-2003 budget, as proposed by Governor Davis. The Assembly Budget Subcommittee approved the proposed budget. The next step is for the full committee to vote on the Authority's FY 2002-2003 budget. The Authority's proposed budget was not impacted by the Governor's May revisions to the budget. Executive Director Morshed reported the Authority is not able to spend any of the FY 2002-2003 budget until the budget has been approved and signed by the Governor. There is a possibility the budget will be postponed past the constitutional deadline of July 1st.

Executive Director Morshed reported on proposed and pending legislation pertaining to the Authority.

- SB1856, authored by Senators Costa, Burton, Figueroa, Karnette, Kuchl and Soto. This bill would provide for the issuance of a general obligation revenue bond for the purpose of funding the planning and construction of a high-speed train system in California. This bill would provide for the submission of the bond act to the voters for approval and would require a 50% match of funds by the Federal government. This bill passed the Senate Transportation Committee with a 10-1 vote. This bill will be presented before the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 20, 2002.
- SB796, authored by Senator Costa, as amended March 11, 2002. This bill would delete the Authority's termination date. This bill was passed by the Assembly Transportation Committee and is now in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Currently there is no scheduled hearing.

Executive Director Morshed reported on the draft agreement between the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Authority for a \$1.25 million federal grant. The final cooperative agreement should be executed within the next few days.

Member Bates entered the meeting.

Public Comment

John S. Gelff, Mayor Pro Tem, City of San Juan Capistrano

Mr. Gelff expressed his concerns relating to double tracking in the Southern California coastal communities. He stated he has submitted letters of concern to Executive Director Morshed from the Mayor of San Juan Capistrano; Supervisor Wilson; Assemblywoman Bates; Congressman Calvert and Orange County Transportation Authority. Mr. Gelff stressed the importance of high-speed rail for Southern California and for the Authority to address their concerns.

Public Participation Procedures

Christine Sproul and George Spanos of the Attorney General's Office presented an overview of the public participation procedures in the environmental review process.

Siemens Presentation

Wayne Williams, Director of Marketing, Siemens introduced Frank Guzzo, Product Manager of Siemens and gave an overview of Siemens' progress in high-speed rail and train technology to the Board as an information item. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

ARUP Presentation

Colin Stewart, Director of ARUP presented an update on the high-speed rail link between the Channel Tunnel and London. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Public Comment

Dan McNamara, Vice President, Train Riders Association of California

Mr. McNamara expressed his frustration at the Board Members leaving the Authority's meetings prior to the general public comment period scheduled during the meeting. He commented favorably on Quantum's Tunneling report. Mr. McNamara requested the Authority reinstate the Altamont Pass route for further study. Chairperson Diridon stated the Authority would respond to McNamara in writing.

Shanna O'Hare, City of Oakland

Ms. O'Hare welcomed the Authority to Oakland. She reported the most recent issue of Forbes Magazine has rated the City of Oakland 8th in the nation of best cities for doing business, outranking San Francisco and San Jose. Ms O'Hare also reported on Oakland's future growth and various transit-oriented development projects that could support a high-speed train system.

Identification of Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled on June 19, 2002 in Anaheim, CA.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.